

June 11, 2015  
Middlesex Municipal Building

The Regular meeting of the Middlesex Shade Tree Commission was held on the above date at the Middlesex Borough Hall and called to order by Vice Chairman Jason Bond:

“This meeting is being held in compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law in that the requirements of the law have been met by the Annual Meeting Notice which has been forwarded to the Courier News and posted in the Municipal Building on December 8, 2014”,

Members:	Jason Bond
	Dan Gitler (absent)
	Jim Gorman
	Sean Johnson
	Frank Ryan (absent)

Liaison	Sean Kaplan (absent)
Secretary	Linda Chismar

Vice Chairman Bond opened the meeting to the public. Seeing that there was no public comments, Vice Chairman Bond closed the Public Portion of the meeting.

Mr. Bond made a motion to approve the January 8, 2015, February 12, 2015, March 12, 2015, April 9, 2015 and May 14, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

Mr. Bond made a motion to approve the January, 2015, February, 2015, March, 2015, April, 2015 and May, 2015 Finance Report seconded by Mr. Gorman and carried by a unanimous vote of the members of the Commission.

#### Communications

1. 229 Giles Avenue – Mr. Johnson indicated that nothing is needed to be done with this tree at this time.
2. 116 Grant Avenue – Commission agreed to have the linden and red oak trimmed and lightly elevated and the neighbor's ash tree trimmed.
3. Presbyterian Church (Side) – Awaiting response from Commissioners as to whether the newly planted tree on the side of the Church is dead.
4. 300 Beechwood Avenue – Commission looked at the tree in the front of this property and felt that nothing should be done at this time.
5. 602 Seneca Avenue – Mr. Gorman will look at the tree in front of this property that the resident feels needs to be removed.
6. 608 Clinton Avenue – Commission approved this tree being thinned on the lawn side approximately 20%

7. 312 Raphael Avenue – Mr. Johnson will go out to look at the tree in the front of this property that resident would like removed.
8. 99 Rock Lane – Mr. Bond felt that this tree is still alive and would like to f/u in the fall.
9. 332 Edgeworth Street – Mr. Bond will check the tree branch that is hanging by the wire.
10. Corner of Marlborough & Hawthorne – Commission agreed to have this tree removed as it is dead.
11. 350 Bound Brook Road – Mr. Bond looked at this property and agreed that the large elm on the Pond Avenue side should be removed and stump grinded. Also approved trimming of the red maple and reduce the overextended limbs. Resident agreed that two trees could be planted on the Pond Avenue side of this property.
12. 244 Fairfield Avenue – Remove dead cherry tree and plant new tree.
13. 30 Fisher Avenue – Resident requested that the tree be removed as he felt it was dead. Mr. Johnson will go to look at the tree. (Same tree as No. 4 below)
14. 300 Raritan Avenue – The tree at 120 Walnut Street dropped a limb and damaged a resident's vehicle. Mr. Bond will go out to look at the tree to see if anything is needed at this time.

#### Work Agenda

1. 247 Fairfield Avenue – Mr. Bond felt that this tree should be trimmed.
2. 320 Anthony Avenue – Mr. Johnson felt that nothing was needed to be done with the pin oak.
3. 121 Vogel Place – Mr. Bond felt that nothing was needed on this tree at this time.
4. Tree on Southeast Corner of Fisher Avenue and Giles Avenue – Commission approved this tree being removed.
5. 511 Chestnut Street - Mr. Bond will look at this tree and report back to the commission if it is dead.

#### Unfinished Business

- (A) Increase of Fines when Removing Trees – This Ordinance was discussed and recommendation by Mr. Bond was to amend Chapter 395-8 and make the fine be a minimum of \$500.00. Committee will review further in September with Mr. Gitler and forward their recommendations to Council to amend the ordinance.
- (B) Update on Door Knob Hangers – Mr. Gitler was not present and will discuss at the September, 2015 meeting.
- (C) Update on Distribution of free tree seedlings – Commission distributed 400 seedlings on April 18. The Commission was unable to distribute at the Little League Field, but hope that next year they can be more organized and arrange for a date to distribute the seedling.

#### New Business

- (A) Watchung School Tree Planting – Commission purchased three red oaks to be planted at Watchung School to replace the old trees that were removed. Mayor Dobies approved the voucher in the amount of \$2500, and Boltzer

Landscaping did the planting in time for the Watchung School 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on June 11.

- (B) Request by Ms. Hartje to have planting done at Hazelwood School – Mr. Bond will check if any trees could be placed in the front of Hazelwood School.
- (C) Ted v. Hoette – Claim Notice – Commission discussed the Claim Notice which was received by the Borough.
- (D) Discussion on Tree Ordinance – Code 317-10 – Commission discussed Code 317-14 and the borough's removal of dead trees from private property. Mr. Johnson mentioned that this ordinance is in effect in Montclair and either Morristown/Morris Plains. Also, a Certified Tree Consultant would need to be employed as a professional to determine that the tree is dead on private property. Linda will review ordinances from other towns and see how they handle this situation in their town.

Mr. Bond moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson and carried by a unanimous vote of the Commission.

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Linda Chismar, Secretary

NEXT SHADE TREE COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2015 – 7:30 PM  
MIDDLESEX BOROUGH HALL

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call Linda at 732-356-7400, Ext. 238

